

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 69 ~~which encodes an hepatitis C virus (HCV) proteolytic polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide consists essentially of an HCV NS3 domain protease or an HCV NS3 domain protease active truncation analog.~~

Claims 28-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 ~~which encodes an hepatitis C virus (HCV) proteolytic polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fusion protein comprising a fusion partner fused to a HCV NS3 domain protease or to an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.~~

Claim 33-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): An expression vector for producing ~~a an HCV proteolytic~~ polypeptide in a host cell, wherein said vector comprises a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 69 ~~encoding said HCV proteolytic polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog;~~ transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences functional in said host cell operably linked to said polynucleotide; and a selectable marker.

Claims 38-41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The expression vector of claim 37 wherein said nucleotide further comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 ~~a sequence encoding a fusion partner, linked to~~

~~said HCV NS3 domain protease or said active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog to form a fusion protein upon expression.~~

Claims 43-44 (Canceled).